

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

2. (Amended) The negative active material slurry composition of claim [1] 6 wherein the transition metal is selected from the group consisting of Mn, Ni, Fe, Cr, Co, Cu and Mo, the alkaline metal is selected from the group consisting of Ca and Mg, and the semi-metal is selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Ga, Si and Sn.

3. (Amended) The negative active material slurry composition of claim [1] 6 wherein the [~~transition metal~~] compound is selected from nickel hydroxide, [~~the alkali earth metal compound is~~] calcium oxalate monohydrate, [~~and the semi-metal compound is~~] boron compounds [or] and tetraethylene orthosilicate.

4. (Amended) The negative active material slurry composition of claim [1] 6 wherein the compound includes at least one boron compound.

6. (Amended) [~~The~~] A negative active material slurry [~~composition of claim 1~~] for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising a mixture of a negative active material and a compound in an organic solvent, the compound comprising elements selected from the group consisting of transition metals, alkaline metals, alkaline earth metals and semi-metals, wherein the amount of the compound is 0.05 to 30 wt %.

8. (Amended) The method of claim [7] 12 wherein the transition metal is selected from the group consisting of Mn, Ni, Fe, Cr, Co, Cu and Mo, the alkaline metal is selected from the group consisting of Na and K, the alkaline earth metal is selected from the group consisting of Ca and Mg, and the semi-metal is selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Ga, Si and Sn.

9. (Amended) The method of claim [7] 12 wherein the [~~transition metal~~] compound is selected from nickel hydroxide, [the alkali earth metal compound is] calcium oxalate monohydrate, [and the semi-metal compound is] boron compounds [or] and tetraethylene orthosilicate.

10. (Amended) The method of claim [7] 12 wherein the compound includes at least one boron compound.

12. (Amended) [~~The~~] A method [~~of claim 7~~] of manufacturing a negative electrode for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising:

mixing a negative active material with a compound to form a mixture, the compound comprising elements selected from the group consisting of transition metals, alkaline metals, alkaline earth metals and semi-metals, wherein the amount of the compound is 0.05 to 30 wt %;

adding an organic solvent to the mixture;

coating the resulting mixture on a current collector; and

drying the coated current collector and pressing the dried current collector.